

Everett, Damon and Kiel; eleven great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Madam Speaker, As a result of Willie James service to our Nation, he leaves a multitude of colleagues, constituents, benefactors, and laborers to continue the work he had manifested in his life for their prosperity and for future generations to come. Though Willie is no longer with us, we will continue to keep his memory alive in our hearts and minds, and continue to honor his legacy with our advocacy for the issues he cared about the most.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for one vote on Thursday, October 29, 2009.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 729, designating a "National Firefighters Memorial Day" to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009, I was unable to be present for the last two series of recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 832 (on passage of the bill H.R. 1168, as amended), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 833 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 291), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 834 (on passage of the bill S. 509).

HONORING KYLE TODD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Todd, a very special young man who has earned a spot on the National USA Karate Team. I join with Kyle's family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Kyle on attaining such a high honor and wish him the best of luck as he competes in the World Karate Championships in Dublin, Ireland, this October.

Gaining recognition for this remarkable achievement reflects both Kyle's hard work and dedication. As a member of the stand-alone Missouri team, as well as the team with the largest number of students to be selected from a single school, Kyle should be proud of his accomplishments. He is a member of a celebrated team and has represented the

state of Missouri well. With such drive and determination I am certain Kyle will be a strong contribution to the national team.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending Kyle Todd for his success with Sensei Mark Long's Shotokan Karate team and for his effort put forth in achieving this prestigious goal.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 867, which calls on the President and the Secretary of State to oppose unequivocally any endorsement or further consideration of the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, commonly referred to as the Goldstone Report.

President of the Human Rights Council established the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict with the mandate "to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that might have been committed during military operations that were conducted in the Gaza Strip."

The report accused Israel of "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity", while downplaying evidence of Hamas' real war crimes and largely dismissing Israel's extraordinary efforts to minimize civilian casualties.

In a turbulent part of the world, we can count on the friendship of Israel because we share the important values of freedom of religion, speech and thought—values that aren't universally shared across the Middle East.

And yet when Israel responds to defend itself, it is singled out unfairly at the United Nations and elsewhere for special condemnation and criticism. It is our responsibility, as a friend and ally to Israel, to stand up for their rights and denounce those that unreasonably target Israel for reproach. While Israel is not perfect, we must be ever watchful and steadfast because there is an unfortunate double standard.

Israel showed extraordinary restraint in response to terrorism and daily rocket attacks emanating from fanatical Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, and yet until Israel responded militarily, the UN and the world looked away. I can think of no country in the world that would have shown such restraint in the face of direct attacks on their civilians.

Hamas launched 7,000 rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli cities between the pullout from Gaza in 2005 and 2009—Hamas' military doctrine makes no distinction between non-combatants and military targets.

During the ground fighting in Gaza, Hamas used mosques, schools and hospitals as military sites and employed civilians as human shields—clear violations of the law of war.

Unintentional civilian deaths Israel caused during the Gaza conflict are condemned as war crimes; the intentional Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians are swept under the rug.

There can be no moral equivalency made between Hamas and Israel, and this report's biased conclusion makes it clear, once again, that the United Nations Human Rights Council is a farce.

FORMER EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DR. AYMAN NOUR DENIED TRAVEL TO U.S.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the following statement released by former Egyptian presidential candidate and political prisoner Dr. Ayman Nour who was restricted from traveling to the United States by Egyptian authorities.

On November 3, 2009, the Egyptian public prosecutor issued an administrative decision preventing me from traveling to the U.S. and to other countries in the Middle East and Europe. My visit to the U.S. was scheduled for November 6, 2009.

The decision by the public prosecutor came as a shock, and is unjustified, especially in light of the recent permit I was granted for a visit to the European Parliament in April 2009. During that visit, I met with various European leaders and underwent substantial medical examinations. I was forced to postpone other necessary physical examinations because I could not obtain a visa for the UK from Belgium.

The public prosecutor's decision conflicts with Egyptian Constitution, Article 52, which stipulates that, "it is not acceptable to prohibit a citizen from staying somewhere or to be forced to stay somewhere." Article 52 states that "citizens have the right to permanent or temporary immigration abroad." Adding to this is the absence of objective reasons given by the authorities that would have prevented me from practicing my right. In other words, there is no probability that I will escape while I am abroad, and I do not owe money to any entity, which means that restricting is uncalled for and unnecessary. The double standard in my case is evident in the fact that the public prosecutor permitted others with real legal obstacles, similar to those described above to travel abroad in the past.

The public prosecutor justified his politically motivated restriction by referring to the fact that I was released from prison on February 18, 2009 for medical reasons, while my official release date had been set for July 22, 2009. This decision was based on claim 12886/63Q dated April 21, 2009, which allowed me to obtain an automatic curtailment of my sentence according to Article 86 of Prisons Bylaw 79/1961. The fact that I was granted an exit permit on March 15, 2009 for my Europe visit mentioned above, is further indication that the current travel restriction is unwarranted.

I would like to present the following facts:

(1) The public prosecutor's decision is only one example in a series of aggression, abuses, and insistence of the political regime to deprive me of my basic human rights, including the following:

a. The right to work and earn a living as an attorney. The temporary governmental committee which ran the Association Bar canceled my membership in April 2009. I was the only individual to receive this cancellation despite the fact that there were dozen of similar cases.